



Pothole-free ... finally!

The Swansley Lane / School Lane junction. More photos on page 3...

After years of plans, reviews and delays the crossing at the junction of Swansley Lane and School Lane in Lower Cambourne was finally repaired in January.

The stretch of road had been severely cracked and pitted with potholes for some considerable time.

Whilst we are pleased with the progress, we look forward to smoother

times ahead when the County Council will be able to repair more of the sunken drains, crumbling inspection cover surrounds and potholes that keep you alert on a drive through Cambourne.

- Town Council updates
- Community news
- Cambourne Library
- Wildlife Trust
- Columnists
- Religious groups
- Schools & education
- Find a local business
- Sport



Monkfield Park awarded Primary Quality Mark for geography teaching

See page 14 for more...



Cambourne Retro Video Game Night returns on 27 March

Find out more on page 23...

Cambourne Crier is the only independent, non-profit publication delivered to more than 5,000 Cambourne homes and businesses each month.

Any profits are distributed through our Community Fund. Cambourne Crier is compiled entirely by volunteers. This issue's editors were: Donavan Bangs, Paul Jobling, Paula Brown, Max Bangs, Martin Law, Ann Stephenson and Hannah Harris.

Distribution: John Panrucker

Finance: Pam Hume

Website & design: Tim Nash

To advertise please contact:

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For leaflet distribution contact:

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Editorial submissions:

Submissions for the **March 2026** edition must be received by 9pm on **Sunday 15th February 2026**.

Please email articles and photos to editorial@cambournecrier.org

or post to Cambourne Crier,

The Hub, High Street, Great Cambourne, CB23 6GW

By submitting photographs you confirm you have permission from the photographer and anyone in the photos for us to print them.

GET INVOLVED!

If you would like to join our editorial team, please get in touch on editorial@cambournecrier.org

COMMUNITY FUND

Our community fund enables us to make grants to local clubs, societies or causes. Do you need new equipment for your group?

Do you want to set up a new group and need some funding to get going? Contact

pamhume1@gmail.com or

download the application form at www.cambournecrier.org

TOWN COUNCIL

■ AGAR 2024/25

The Town Council is currently awaiting a report from the external auditor. An assessment into what further actions may require is being undertaken and will be provided to the Council in due course.

The recent Interim audit will be considered by the Town Council but was encouraging and a testament to the commitment of the Council's officers and Councillors to change.

■ Staffing

The Council has recently concluded interviews for several roles, including Community Development Officer, Sports Development Officer and Office Administrator.

With these roles filled the Town Council office should be open at the expected hours. This may fluctuate initially whilst staff are being trained.

■ Budget 2026/27

The Town Council has until 6th February 2026 to agree and issue its precept requirement to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Town Council is responsible for the allotments, burial ground, community buildings, events, play areas and public open spaces and a number of other functions. These are all funded from the precept and other income the Town Council receives throughout the year.

■ Local Highway Improvement Bid 2026 Submitted

Cambourne Town Council has submitted its Local Highway Improvement (LHI) bid to Cambridgeshire County Council for the 2026 funding round. The bid is for a pedestrian crossing at Uplands Place, an area where the Council has received

numerous requests and testimonials highlighting the need for improved safety. The Council is aware that there has also been disappointment expressed regarding Back Lane, which has not been included in this year's bid. This location has been considered; however, specific funding has been made available that directly supports an application for Uplands Place, making this bid more likely to be successful.

If alternative funding sources become available, the Council could look at the installation of MVAS units (Mobile Vehicle Activated signs) and other measures, alternatively the provisions would be reviewed in December 2026 ahead of next year's submission.

It is also important to note that the Town Council is only permitted to submit one LHI bid per year, which means priorities must be carefully assessed when deciding which scheme to put forward.

■ Council meetings are held at 7pm in the Meeting Room at The Hub Community Centre

Members of the public are welcome to observe.

24th February 2026

– Planning Committee

– Followed by Leisure and Amenities

3rd March 2026

– Planning Committee

– Followed by Full Council

17 March 2026

– Planning Committee

– Followed by Finance and Policy Committee

Cambourne Town Council Office:

The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW.

Tel: 01954 714403

Email office@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk

Facebook/Instagram: @cambournetowncouncil



MOBILE POST OFFICE:

The Hub Car Park

Mondays: 1.30-4.00pm

Wednesdays: 12.30-4.00pm

Tel: 01480 464 757

BIN COLLECTIONS:

Check your collection date here:

www.scams.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/find-your-household-bin-collection-day

The good, the bad and the ugly

While Cambourne residents are happy to see the new road surface at the Swansley Lane and School Lane junction (below), many more repairs are needed throughout Cambourne.



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Spotting the first signs of spring on Cambourne's nature reserves

WILDLIFE TRUST BCN: Look out for early signs of spring on our nature reserves in February...

- Frogs, toads, and newts may migrate in late Feb if the weather is mild. If you find an animal at risk, please don't move it far, and use gloves or wet hands.
- Great spotted woodpeckers can be heard drumming in woods in late winter
- Lesser celandine is a low-growing wildflower found in woodlands. It flowers late winter into early spring and has long, bright yellow, glossy, petals, and heart-shaped leaves.
- Rooks and herons both nest communally, and early, in tall trees
- Peacock and brimstone butterflies overwinter as adults and can be seen throughout winter on warm days
- White-tailed and buff-tailed bumblebee are often the first queens to emerge and can be huge!

Here are a few things you can do to help wildlife when visiting nature reserves or other wilder green spaces:

Keep your dog out of the water: Topical flea treatment can affect aquatic invertebrates, and the food chain they are part of, plus dogs disturb sediment which then covers aquatic plants and reduces their ability to oxygenate in the water.

Avoid muddy paths: If you know it will be especially muddy, please walk elsewhere to avoid churning paths. If you end up on a muddy path, please stick to the middle so you don't spread the damage. It helps if you wear appropriate footwear.

Record and report: The Wildlife Trust BCN is always happy to hear about positive wildlife encounters; send us a photo if you can! It would be great if you could submit a formal wildlife record via the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre.

This year we are trialling a few community volunteering days suitable for adults, and families with children aged 7+. Booking is essential, so please get in touch if you want to come along.

- Wednesday 18th February 9.30-12.30 Cambourne Nature Reserve
- Thursday 19th February 9.30-12.30 Trumpington Meadows Nature Reserve

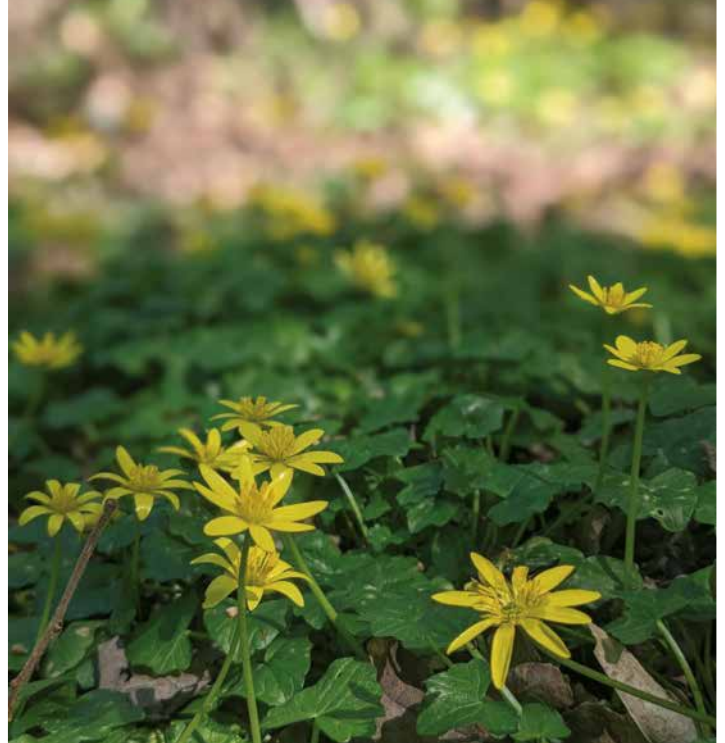
Local enquiries:

Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: [@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: [@TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve](https://www.facebook.com/TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve)



General enquiries

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

@wildlifebcn

www.wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.

Repair Café

Cambourne



Do you have an electrical or mechanical item, item of clothing or bicycle that needs repair? Book a free slot at Cambourne Repair Cafe



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code for event details and to book a repair slot

Event: **Cambourne Repair Cafe**

On: **Saturday, February 28th 11AM - 2PM**

At: **Cambourne Village College (Performance Hall)**

Walk-in's on the day of the event are accepted, but booking is preferred and will take priority

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact cambournerepaircafe@gmail.com

Visit our webpage at <https://cambourneshed.org/repair-cafe/>

Cambourne Repair Cafe is brought to you by Cambourne Shed www.cambourneshed.org

CAMBOURNE

SHED

WHAT'S ON AT BAMBOO SKY

FEBRUARY

8 & 22 SKY SUNDAY ROAST
13 MAGIC TABLES
14 VALENTINES DRAG DJ BRUNCH*
15 VALENTINES AFTERNOON TEA
27 SIP & PAINT*

MARCH

1 & 15 SKY SUNDAY ROAST
13 MAGIC DOMES*
14 AFTERNOON TEA & MUSIC
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22 SIP & PAINT*
30 BANGKOK DJ BRUNCH PARTY*
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Valentine's Messages

My darling Nia, Will you be
my Valentine?
Love always Bond xxx

*My L – If you are not the
one then I do not know
what the one is, D*

My Pumpkin, you are just the right
kind of annoying year after year.
Love your Vanilla Ice



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Cambourne Library: almost there!

The hoarding is down, and we can see how well the library is coming along. The library space has been expanded, and we can start to imagine how it will look when we have furniture, books and most importantly the community back in the library.

We will update our website once we have a confirmed date for reopening. Thank you for your patience and we look forward to welcoming you back to our newly refurbished library.

Important Changes to Comberton & Papworth Opening Hours:

As we are heading towards re opening Cambourne Library we will be reverting to the usual opening hours at Comberton and Papworth Libraries. This will take effect from Monday 9th February 2026. There is a reminder at the foot of the page about those opening hours.

■ Events in Cambridgeshire Libraries Calendar

February is LGBTQ+ History Month

Read the rainbow using your library membership to choose from a range of titles in our collection (also online).

In the National Year of Reading (goallin.org.uk)

There's no better way to get little ones off to a flying start than with stories. Did you know that the first week of February is National Storytelling Week? Bring your children along to our free storytime, held regularly on Fridays 9.30am-10am in the Children and Families Activity Room.

Knit, Sew and Natter Group Craft Group

The craft group meet every Tuesday 10am-12pm in Cambourne Church. Take along any portable craft you like. Please contact cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk while we are closed for more information.

Cambourne Lunch Bunch Book Group

If you would like to join in with this friendly group, please contact cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The meeting will be on Wednesday 18th February 12.30pm, meeting in the foyer of The Holiday Inn, Cambourne.



Rhyme time/Storytime

Come along and sing and share stories at our fabulous Rhymetime sessions, every Friday 9.30am-10am in the Child and Family Centre Activity room, Sackville House (term time only). Please look out for local posters, Cambridgeshire Libraries Families Face Book page or email cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for information about these sessions.

Our Digital Offer

Due to the refurbishment of the library and the computer area, public PCs and printing/ copying facilities will remain unavailable until the library re opens. Alternative provision of public PCs and printers (A4 printer only) can be found at both Papworth and Comberton Libraries.

Contact Us

Tel: 0345 045 5225

cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Social Media

Facebook @CambridgeshireLibraries

Facebook @CambsLibFamilies

Instagram @cambslibCambridgeshireLibraries

YouTube @CambridgeshireLibraries

Comberton Library

Monday: 10am to 1pm:

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10am to 1pm,
2.30pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 2:30pm to 5.30pm

Saturday: 10am to 1pm

Sunday: Closed

Closed on Bank Holidays

Papworth Library

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am to 1pm,
2pm to 5pm

Wednesday: 10am to 1pm

Thursday: 2pm to 5pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10am to 1pm

Sunday: Closed

Closed on Bank Holidays

Cambourne

While the library is closed there will be a **mobile library** visiting The Hub car park, CB23 6GW in Cambourne on Saturdays 14th and 21st February from 10.00am to 4.00pm

All return dates will be extended throughout the closure period, however, items can be returned to any Cambridgeshire library, or mobile library, should you wish to do so.

Help choose the next season of live performances in Cambs libraries

What would you like to see performed at your library? Cambridgeshire residents are invited to help shape the next season of live music, theatre and dance coming to libraries across the county.

What entertainment would you like to see performed at your local library this year? That's the question being asked by the team behind The Library Presents, as members of the public are once again invited to help shape the next season of this much-loved arts and entertainment programme.

For over eight years, thanks to generous support from Arts Council England, The Library Presents has delivered high-quality live entertainment

in libraries across the region. Central to the programme is the choosing process, which gives local people a direct say in the events that come to their communities, helping to ensure each season reflects local tastes, interests and ideas.

Taking part in the process is simple. From Thursday 15 January to Monday 16 February, the choosing menu, containing over 50 events, is available online and in participating libraries. People are invited to browse the menu and select up to six performances they would most like to see take place at their local library.

The menu includes a lively mix of music, poetry, theatre, dance, digital, comedy and magic. It features both popular, much-loved artists who have performed as part of The Library Presents before, such as Graffiti Classics and The Zoo That Comes To You, alongside exciting new artists being introduced to the choosing menu for the first time.

The impact of local involvement is clear to audiences. One attendee from last season said: "It's wonderful to have these events locally." This simple sentiment

reflects a core aim of the programme: bringing exceptional cultural experiences into the heart of everyday communities, shaped by the people who live there.

Have your say by visiting one of the county's libraries or taking part online between 15 January and 16 February.

Community groups and clubs can also arrange a visit from The Library Presents team to gather views in person. To find out more, contact thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

■ Participating Libraries

Alconbury Weald, Arbury Court, Barnwell Road, Bassingbourn, Burwell, Cambourne, Cambridge Central, Chatteris, Cherry Hinton, Clay Farm, Ely, Huntingdon, Littleport, March, Ramsey, Sawston, St Ives, St Neots, Whittlesey, Wisbech. *The programme is funded by Arts Council England (2023- 2026), managed by Cambridgeshire County Council.*



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Online Safety – Social Media for under 16s

I have received hundreds of messages from local parents who are concerned about the consequences of social media on their children's safety and mental wellbeing.

The Liberal Democrats have long raised the alarm on social media harms as a public health crisis, and over the past month

We announced our amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which calls for a ban on harmful social media for under 16s.

Our amendment proposes film-style age ratings of up to 18 for the most harmful platforms and a default rating of 16 for social media. This model, while protecting children from the worst of the online world and providing an incentive for platforms to remove addictive algorithms and harmful content, ensures that children can

continue to use sites like Wikipedia for schoolwork, or WhatsApp to stay connected to family and friends. Both could be age-gated under a blanket under-16 ban. It's important that children are able to access online crisis services such as Childline forums which are caught up in Online Safety Act user-to-user services.

When this issue came to a vote in the House of Lords, the Conservative blanket ban amendment passed with Liberal Democrat support. Children and young people must come first and this vote sends a clear message that Parliament expects urgent progress on protecting children online.

The Bill will soon return to the House of Commons and I will continue to hold the government accountable for protecting our children online.



IAN SOLLUM

*MP for St Neots and
Mid Cambridgeshire*

ian.sollom.mp
@parliament.uk

Grants to support local groups and services



HELENE LEEMING

District Councillor

Cllr.leeming@scambs.gov.uk

I take heart in local decisions that support people close to home, that recognise the contributions of all in our community and hold tight to democracy.

The national government offered SCDC the chance to postpone local elections in May, but we rejected this, believing that the right to vote is fundamental to all we hold dear.

I am also cheered that due to good financial management, the district council has been able to commit to £900,000 in discretionary funding over the next three years for support grants, recognising the crucial skills that local charities and community groups have to deliver services that make a real difference including supporting

people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and helping residents through the cost-of-living crisis.

Many of the grants awarded focus on young and older people, reducing isolation and supporting those affected by bereavement.

The 2026-2029 funding allocations were awarded following a rigorous assessment process, ensuring funds are directed where they will have the greatest impact.

As your local councillor, I recently participated in a meeting with relevant transport bodies, the developers and bus companies, unlocking significant funding for buses in our area. I wish progress was faster, but it is being made.

Raynaud's phenomenon

Raynaud's phenomenon is a common condition that temporarily affects normal blood flow to fingers and toes.

It does not usually cause severe problems but can be very uncomfortable. Raynaud's can cause pain, numbness and pins and needles and often causes fingers and toes to change colour.

Symptoms can last anything from several minutes to a few hours. It is usually linked to the cold but can be caused by feelings of anxiety or stress, or using vibrating tools over a long time. If you have Raynaud's it can be helped by keeping warm and wearing warm clothing, especially on your hands and feet.

Exercise and finding ways of relaxing can also help. Caffeine (found in coffee, tea and cola) can make symptoms worse, as can smoking because it affects the circulation.

Raynaud's can often be managed without medical help, but it is important to see the GP if symptoms are very severe or getting worse; if they only affect one side of the body; for those under 12 years old or if symptoms develop for the first time over the age of 30.

Sometimes Raynaud's can be a sign of a different health condition, if there are also any problems with rashes, joint pain or muscle weakness it should be reported to your GP.

■ **Reference:** nhs.uk/conditions/raynauds



CATHERINE PRICE

*Cambourne Parish
Nursing Service*
nurse@cambourne
church.org.uk

3rd Cambourne Guides set goals for the year ahead

3RD CAMBOURNE GUIDES: We've started the new year with a few new Guides joining the unit, bringing us to an enthusiastic group of 16.

The first meeting of the term was spent setting ourselves challenges and goals for the year ahead, as well as taking time to welcome everyone and help our new members feel part of the group.

Over the course of this term, we're

looking forward to a varied programme. Activities will include mocktail making, patrol-chosen evenings planned by our two patrols – the Dragons and the Phoenixes – and a wide range of active games and creative, craft-based sessions.

We're excited to see everyone develop new skills, work together, and have fun along the way.



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Parish boundary proposal

Most of you will have little reason to think about the boundary of Cambourne parish. I am not talking about the civic boundary of the town of Cambourne, but rather the boundary which exists for various legal and practical purposes for the Church of England.

While the civic town boundary now includes West Cambourne as well as Lower, Great, and Upper Cambourne, the church parish boundary does not yet include West Cambourne, which is legally still within Caxton parish. This does not seem sensible to anyone with whom I have discussed it, and we are in the process of getting the parish boundary redrawn to include West Cambourne. I hope that this will be finalised in the coming months. As part of the

consultation, before the legal change goes ahead, I am offering residents an opportunity to comment on this proposal. You can do this through Cambourne Church office or by contacting the Church of England's Ely Diocesan offices.

For me it is important that West Cambourne is integrated into the rest of Cambourne life in every way possible. For example, we have made representations about transport links, which have now improved somewhat.

As we are a town which now comprises four villages rather than three, this should be reflected in all kinds of ways. The redrawing of the parish boundary is a technical matter, but it is part of a journey to becoming one community.

Revd Bill Miller

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2026

1st February

10.00am Sunday One: All Age Communion Service

8th February

9.30am Sunday Worship Service
11.00am Sunday Worship Service *

15th February

9.30am Sunday Worship Service
11.00am Sunday Worship Service *

18th February

8.00pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service

22nd February

9.30am Communion Service
11.00am Communion Service *

* The 11.00am services include age-appropriate groups for children and young people.

PEACEHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral thoughts: Unexpected things

Things happen that are often unpredictable. Perhaps for good or ill, life has a way of surprising us and altering our plans. Because of this, we must maintain flexibility in our pursuits. After all, a diversion is not a total block, merely a path you have yet to take.

One such recent change was our assistant minister moving on ministry. As he and his wife were leading the addiction recovery ministry on Wednesdays, we will be suspending those meetings for now. This does not mean that if someone is struggling in that area we cannot help; rather, assistance will be on a more individual basis instead of a scheduled group setting. We wish

Caleb well in his future endeavours and wherever the Lord leads him. He was a great blessing during my illness, filling in when needed, and has learned much in preparation for future ministry.

In all unexpected situations, especially those that bring difficulty, it is wise to take a moment to assess rather than panic. Ask yourself: are there preparations you can rely upon? I was reminded of this when someone panicked because a piece of equipment stopped working after the power pack finally gave up ... and I handed them a spare I had bought three months earlier.

If there are no preparations in place, consider what has changed, what has

remained the same, and what you can do about it. If you need help, seek it. If

nothing can be done, then carry on with what you can do and pray about the rest. Stressing over things beyond your control accomplishes nothing.

Jacob faced this when he feared meeting his brother Esau. He planned, he prepared, and then he prayed – and God changed the outcome. Never underestimate what God can do with even a little faith. The results may be unexpected, but in His wisdom they are better in the long run.



**Pastor
Donovan Bangs**



PEACEHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 10am Sunday school
11 AM Morning Worship
Find links on Facebook for
Peacehaven Baptist Church or look for

Donovan Bangs on Youtube

At the Cambourne Community Centre, the Hub

Pastor Donovan Bangs 01954 710510

PeacehavenBC@aol.com peacehavenbc.org.uk

Charity number 1204927





Celebrating
Christian
unity
together in
Cambourne

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY: In mid-January, we celebrated Christian Unity week in Cambourne with invitations to each other's services.

On the Saturday, several members of the Cambourne Church community joined our evening Mass (pictured) where Rev. Bill Miller was invited to deliver a sermon. It was thoughtful and engaging with the theme 'Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world'. The following day, a small group of us Catholics joined the Cambourne Church

for their Sunday morning service where we were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed the spiritual atmosphere and singing. What a wonderful way to recognise and celebrate our Christian bonds here in Cambourne.

■ St John Fisher Catholic Community
Mass times in Cambourne Church Centre:
Mon-Wed 12:30,
Thu-Fri 18:30,
Sat-Sun 17:00.
Tel: 01223 832397; Mobile: 07843 861719,
Email: sjf.cambourne@rcdea.org.uk,
Website: cambournerc.com

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4-BED DETACHED £26 - 6 WEEKLY £35 - 12 WEEKLY	5-BED DETACHED £35 - 6 WEEKLY £48 - 12 WEEKLY	TOWN HOUSE £30 - 6 WEEKLY £39 - 12 WEEKLY

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COMMUNITY

Scout groups celebrate the festive season – and welcome the spring term

2ND CAMBOURNE SCOUTS: Before Christmas, our three sections enjoyed a Ten Pin Bowling Christmas Party in St Neots to celebrate the end of the year.

Once we came back together in January, our first sessions involved getting to know the new young people in

our sections and helpers with several Duke of Edinburgh award volunteers joining us for the term.

Welcome Back Nights always feature games and challenges to help build up our new teamwork camaraderie, the Beavers are pictured here 'building a

train'. In mid-January, our Cubs re-evoked the spirit of the festive period with a Christmas themed Camp at the Jarman Centre, Newmarket. A fun weekend of challenges was had with much time spent outdoors as well as having a Christmas Dinner served.



Upcoming events and ticket information from Light Up Cambourne

LIGHT UP CAMBOURNE: The amount of support we get from those who attend our fund raising events never ceases to amaze us. As I type this our next event the Murder Mystery evening has sold out and a waiting list started.

Unfortunately, as soon as we announce that an upcoming event has sold out the scammers appear with offers of available tickets as a result of changed plans or some other reason. Those of you who have attended one of our events will know that our booking system means that this is not possible - so please keep in mind, if you see anyone advertising that they have spare tickets to our events THEY DON'T. The only way to

obtain tickets to our events is direct from us by contacting us on our Facebook page or by emailing lightupcambourne@gmail.com

After a quieter couple of months, the LUC committee is in the process of arranging further events throughout the year with a mixture of old favorites, some new events and building on those trialed last year, we hope that there is something that appeals to everyone.

Next up after the Murder Mystery evening is an Easter Bunny Paint and Sip on 21st March and judging by the response we had to the Paint and Sip last November, this is going to be very well attended. In October we will be holding our second Scarecrow competition, take this article as early notice, time to get your thinking heads on to design your entry! This year's event will include activities to be held in the Hub during the afternoon, so plenty of opportunity to join in the fun.

Keep a look out in *Cambourne Crier* and on our Facebook page for further details of these and other upcoming LUC events and thank you Cambourne for your ongoing support.

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Monkfield Park is an inspiration to geographers

MONKFIELD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL was thrilled to learn that it had been awarded the prestigious Primary Quality Mark for its 'lively and effective teaching of Geography'. This is a very special award as it demonstrates how outward looking the school is and a reflection of its unique and diverse community.

As part of the broad curriculum, children are taught about physical, human and environmental Geography to develop their understanding of the world around them and their impact on it. This term they are studying a wide range of topics from climate zones and biomes to the human Geography of South America,

Kenya and China. Year 5 have been studying South America and were delighted to discover that Zara Lachlan, the first woman and youngest person to row solo from Europe to South America, lives locally in Cambridgeshire. The inspired kids wrote to her about her South American odyssey, with their many questions compiled into two books. Zara very kindly sent a wonderful film to the school describing the high points and difficulties of her journey and answering each question in person. Zara is currently training for her next rowing adventure but has promised to visit Monkfield Park to share details of her exciting geographical discoveries.



Is spring really early? A closer look at Wandlebury's snowdrops

Snowdrops and winter aconites are beginning to show across Wandlebury Country Park, prompting the familiar seasonal question: is spring arriving early, or are we simply more attuned to its first signs?

At Wandlebury, these early flowers have been quietly emerging from their bulbs since late autumn. While mild winters can encourage earlier growth, wardens say the story is less about dates and more about noticing what is already there. Peak snowdrop season at the park is still expected in the first week of February, and during half term week.

"Snowdrops and aconites are the bright harbingers of longer days," said Hannah Warren, one of Wandlebury's wardens. "Our display at Wandlebury is unfurling across the old gardens and into the woods, and the coming weeks offer a chance to discover all the early signs of spring."

Alongside these familiar signs are other indicators of change for those who look closely. Tiny pink hazel flowers can be spotted among catkins, while spurge laurel produces small green flowers hidden beneath its leaves, carrying a faint scent of honey. Stinking hellebore, less subtle in name and smell, is another early presence in the park.

Wandlebury Country Park lies on the Gog Magog Hills just south-east of Cambridge and is known for its sweeping views, woodland walks and layered history, including the earthworks of an Iron Age hillfort. The park offers space for winter walks that reward attention to detail as much as spectacle.

■ *Wandlebury Country Park is cared for by Cambridge Past, Present & Future, which manages green spaces around Cambridge for public benefit.*



All about the waste and recycling at the Vine

THE VINE INTER-CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL: On Wednesday 14th January, Year 4 pupils welcomed Cambridgeshire County Council for an engaging and educational day of free recycling and food waste workshops.

The sessions were designed to teach children the importance of reducing waste and caring for the environment at home. During the day, pupils worked alongside a professional chef who explained practical ways to reduce food waste, showing how leftover or overripe ingredients can be transformed into something delicious.

They thoroughly enjoyed getting hands-on, baking their own banana muffins topped with a crumbly topping, while learning valuable skills about food preparation and sustainability.

The recycling workshop was equally popular, with pupils enthusiastically learning about what items belong in each bin and why correct recycling matters.

The sessions sparked curiosity, discussion and plenty of excitement, with many keen to share their new knowledge beyond the classroom. One pupil summed up the experience perfectly, saying he “had fun learning about what goes in each bin and can’t wait to tell his grown ups how to use them properly”.

The workshops not only provided an enjoyable day for the children but also helped them develop a stronger understanding of environmental responsibility, leaving them inspired to make positive changes at home and in their community.



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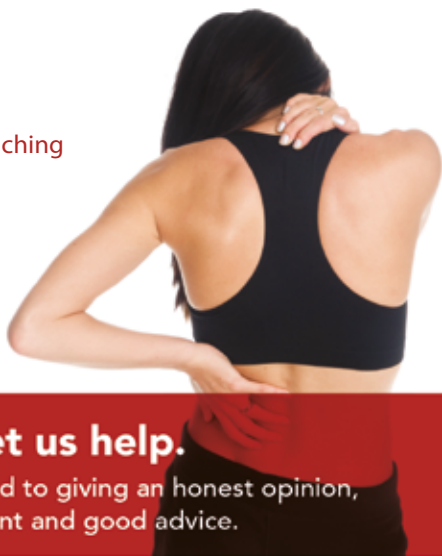
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Cambourne retro video night returns for another classic gaming evening

Cambourne Retro Video Night has been a semi-regular fixture since 2019, coaxing local retro gaming enthusiasts out of hiding year after year.

It's the perfect excuse to relive your glory days, whether that's battling through the Boulder Dash on the Commodore 64 or firing up a Sega Master System, while enjoying a few beers with friends.

We typically have 10 to 15 different consoles and computers set up and ready

to play, plus a bar provided by Lord Conrad's Brewery.

If playing classic video games with like-minded retro nerds sounds like your idea of a good night, our next event is on Friday 27th March 2026 at The Hub.

Doors open at 7pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance from retrovideogamenight.com.

Please note this is an 18+ event, as alcohol will be available and some games may contain adult themes.



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Our latest business fire safety animation video has been released, highlighting tips for checking and maintaining a fire alarm system.

These systems are a key component in keeping any business premises fire safe, so making sure it is tested regularly is vital.

You can view the video on our YouTube channel, along with the other animations in the series.

Fire Safety Presentations

Introduction to fire safety in the workplace

We run FREE sessions to help businesses understand their responsibilities for relevant fire safety legislation.

Attending a session will provide a better appreciation of the Fire Safety Order, the need for assessment of fire risk and the application of fire safety measures within your workplace.

Presented by qualified Fire Safety Officers, the session last around 90 minutes. These can be attended either online (via Microsoft Teams) or in person at the locations listed below. There will be no expectation for you to appear on camera if you attend an online session, and there is also the option to ask questions throughout the session using the chat function.

- Tuesday 17th March, 6.30pm at Huntingdon Fire Station
- Thursday 21st May, 2pm at Cambridge Fire Station
- Tuesday 14th July, 9.30am at Stanground Fire Station



Business fire safety news

Our fire protection officers hosted a group from the Cambridge Women's Resource Centre. They delivered an engaging Fire Safety Presentation at Cambridge Fire Station, which contained invaluable expertise and practical advice to help keep their members fire safe.

Fire safety officers have been working proactively to support local businesses in keeping their premises safe, through a new partnership with a major business park operator.



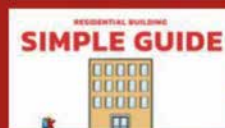
Watch our fire safety animations



This short animation provides a brief introduction to Fire Risk Assessment, explaining who needs to carry one out and how to start.



This short video provides some information about the Fire Safety Order and where it applies.



This short guide aims to provide those responsible for residential buildings with a simple guide to their responsibilities following legislation change.



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COMMUNITY

Bourn Players to stage one of the UK's first amateur productions of Frozen in support of homelessness charity

Bourn Players has a long tradition of staging annual musicals that celebrate local talent, bring residents together, and create memorable shared experiences for families across the village and surrounding area.

We are proud that our productions are entirely community-led and that they consistently raise funds for worthwhile local causes.

This year, proceeds from Frozen will

go to Winter Comfort, a Cambridge-based charity that does vital work supporting people facing homelessness and hardship, particularly during the colder months.

wintercomfort.org.uk

This production is especially exciting for us and for the wider community. Frozen has only very recently been released for licensing to amateur theatre groups, meaning our show will be among the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. We anticipate significant local interest.

For the first time in forever, experience the musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm!



Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, Disney's Frozen includes all the film's beloved songs by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, along with new music written exclusively for the stage.

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Cambourne Indian Club's 2025 Christmas Carol charity event

Spreading Joy, Warmth and Hope this Festive Season

The Cambourne Indian Club once again brought the community together for a heartwarming celebration of music, togetherness, and giving at the 2025 Christmas Carol Charity Event. The festivities were dedicated to supporting Jimmy's Homeless Charity – www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk – an organisation that provides vital shelter, care, and support to those experiencing homelessness in Cambridge.

A Season of Song and Giving

The highlight of the year's celebration was the house-to-house carolling held on 13th December, when the Club's carol group spread festive cheer across Cambourne. Braving the cold winter evening, the group, including enthusiastic children, visited over 20 homes of club members, filling the neighbourhood with joyful melodies and Christmas spirit.

Each home was met with warm smiles, laughter, and festive treats as families joined in the singing. The carollers' dedication and energy created a sense of unity and joy that perfectly captured the

essence of the season.

After completing their rounds, the group gathered at the local hall in Cambourne to finish the evening with a final round of carols and refreshments. The carollers were also invited to perform at the local Catholic Church in Cambourne, where their heartfelt singing was warmly received by the congregation.

Supporting Jimmy's Homeless Charity

All proceeds collected from the house carolling and the Church were used to purchase essential supplies for Jimmy's Homeless Charity, a local organisation that provides accommodation, meals, and support services to individuals facing homelessness. The donation was made to their shelter on 21st December.

This act of kindness embodied the true meaning of Christmas, sharing warmth and compassion with those in need. Through generous donations and the collective effort of the Cambourne Indian Club community, the initiative made a meaningful difference to those in need.

Representatives from Jimmy's expressed heartfelt gratitude, explaining how community efforts like this directly

impact lives by offering warmth, safety, and hope during the cold winter months.

Community, Culture, and Compassion

Beyond the music and fundraising, the event showcased the strength of Cambourne's multicultural community. Families came together to celebrate the season, blending traditions and sharing the joy of giving.

The evening concluded with a collective carol sing-along and a moment of reflection on the power of kindness. Smiles, laughter, and the spirit of giving filled the air, a true testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together for a noble cause.

Looking Ahead

The Cambourne Indian Club extends heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, performers, and attendees who made the 2025 Christmas Carol Charity Event a big success. The funds and supplies raised will go a long way in supporting Jimmy's mission to provide shelter and dignity to those in need.





The club looks forward to continuing its tradition of community service, cultural celebration, and compassion in the year ahead.

Cambourne Indian Club

cambourneindianclub.com

ambourneindianclub@gmail.com

Together, we sang, we celebrated, and we gave, making this Christmas truly meaningful.



Letter from a reader

Our cat was killed on our private property by a dog that was not on a lead.

This happened on 4th January.

Although there are no signs around asking dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead the Town Council does advise this regularly in Cambourne Crier. The council has confirmed this to us.

We asked for the dog to be kept on lead while passing our property a few months ago as it has come into our garden many times, chasing our cats. The owner did not comply as they said there are no signs.

While we respect this, we also ask that if an owner cannot control their dog or know their dog will chase cats, then to please be respectful when passing such areas (especially when made aware of the situation).

The lack of signs should not be an excuse for dogs to be allowed to run into private properties when the owners have no recall or control over the animal.

Cambourne & District u3a

u3a
learn, laugh, live

Monthly meetings
Third Friday of the month
10.30 at The Hub
Cambourne CB23 6GW
Speakers, coffee and chat

INTEREST GROUPS

- Allsorts
- Anyone for coffee?
- Art Appreciation
- Board Games
- Book Clubs
- Bridge
- Classical Music
- Dance Fitness
- Darts & Pool
- Gardens Galore
- Genealogy
- Intermediate French
- iPad interest
- Out to Lunch
- Singing
- Study Trips
- Table Tennis & Badminton
- Theatre
- Walking
- WWII

**Come and join
us at The Hub in
Cambourne**

**u3a is a very
welcoming
organisation**

**Meet new friends
Find new interests
Lots going on!**

u3a

Come and reimagine your retirement!

Guests are welcome to attend a meeting
to find out more about us!
<https://cambourne.u3asite.uk>

CONTACTS

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Cambourne & District U3A:
u3a.chair@cambourne.org
Cambourne Air Cadets:
105@aircadets.org
Cambourne Army Cadets:
www.cambsacf.com
Cambourne Art Group:
Pat Goatly on 01954 715702 or
pat.goatly@gmail.com
Cam Care UK:
www.camcare.org.uk
Cambourne Community Theatre Group:
info@cambournecommunitytheatre.org
Cambourne Community Website:
hello@cambourne.info or
www.cambourne.info
Cambourne Crescent:
www.cambournecrescent.org
Cambourne Experimental Cookery Club;
Cambourne Electronics & Robotics
Club; Come Cook Dine with Me;
Cambourne Digital Surgery 60+:
shrobona@gmail.com
Cambourne Repair Café:
cambournerepaircafe@gmail.com
Cambourne Shed:
cambourneshed@gmail.com
Cambourne Woodcraft Folk
Cambourne@woodcraft.org.uk
Chess Club (primary and secondary
aged children to Year 11):
cambourne.chess@gmail.com
Children's Centre: 01954 284 672 or
childandfamilycentre.south
@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Community Gospel Choir:
cambournegospelchoir@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Cambourne
CommunityGospelChoir
Crafty Ladies:
Maureen 01954 718542 or
craftyoldladies@gmail.com
Crescent Science & Technology Club:
info@cambournecrescent.org
Light up Cambourne:
lightupcambourne@gmail.com
Photography Group:
Nicola Marriott 07811 154 901
www.flickr.com/groups
/cambournephotographygroup
Reading Groups:
Cambourne.Referral@
cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Sunday Walks:
Sandra 07747 012 245 or
scalcraft@gmail.com
Words for Pleasure Writers' Group:
Pat Callaghan 01954 715 106
WW2 Aircraft Club:
01954 716817 or
iancameron692@gmail.com

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Town Council Office:
01954 714 403
office@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk
District Councillors for Cambourne:
Shrobona Bhattacharya:
cllr.bhattacharya@scambs.gov.uk
Stephen Drew: cllr.drew@scambs.gov.uk
Helene Leeming:
cllr.leeming@scambs.gov.uk

SERVICES

Cambourne Crescent Food Bank:
www.cambournecrescent.org/service/
foodbank
Community Car Scheme: 07526 998 465
cambournecarscheme@gmail.com
Cromwell Veterinary Group:
01954 715 161
Hope Against Poverty CIC:
hopepic.uk@gmail.com
www.hopeagainst.org
Streetlight faults:
www.cambourne.info/street-lights
Wildlife Trust: Rebecca Neal
01954 713 516 www.wildlifebcn.org

CHURCHES

Cambourne Catholic Community:
www.cambournerc.com
Cambourne Church:
www.cambournechurch.org.uk Foodbank:
Julie Whitbread
julie.whitbread@cambournechurch.org.uk
Christchurch Cambourne:
www.christchurchcambourne.org.uk
The Harbour Bereavement Café:
theharbour@cambournechurch.org.uk
Peacehaven Baptist Church:
www.peacehavenbc.org.uk

HEALTH CARE

Cambourne Dental Practice:
01954 718 585
www.colosseumdental.co.uk/practices/
cambourne-dental-clinic
Community First Responder:
Mark Taylor 07858 394 719
mark.taylor@inheritancewills.co.uk
Jardines Pharmacy: 01954 718 296
Monkfield Dental: 01954 774 540
www.monkfield.dental
Monkfield Medical Practice: 01954 282
153 www.monkfieldpractice.co.uk

EDUCATION

Arabic Language School:
www.cambournecrescent.org/service/
arabic-school
info@cambournecrescent.org
Cambourne Village College:
01954 284 000 www.cambournevc.org
Comberton Village College:
01223 262 503 www.combertonvc.org

Educating Otherwise:

www.facebook.com/Home Education -
Cambourne
Hardwick and Cambourne Community
Primary: 01954 210070
www.hardwickandcambourneprimary.co.uk
Jeavons Wood Primary School:
01954 717 180 www.jeavonswood.org
Monkfield Park Primary School: 01954 273
377 www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk
Vine Inter-Church Primary School: 01954
719 630 www.thevine.cambs.sch.uk

PLAYGROUPS/PRE-SCHOOLS

Cambourne Pre-school:
01954 715 150
www.cambournepreschool.org.uk
Carers And Tots: www.facebook.com/Carers
and Tots, Cambourne
Monkfield Park Care & Learning Centre:
01954 273 301
www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk Kindred
Cambourne Day Nursery and Pre-School:
01954 719 440 www.kindrednurseries.co.uk

SPORTS & LEISURE

Cambourne Balkan Dance Club:
cam.balkan.dance@gmail.com
Cambourne Bowls Club:
Stuart Palmer 07860 654 057
Cambourne Comets Trampoline
and DMT Club:
cambournecomets@gmail.com
Cambourne Cricket Club:
cambournecc@gmail.com
Cambourne Fishing Club:
www.cambournefishingclub.com
Cambourne Fitness & Sports Centre:
01954 714 070
Cambourne junior parkrun:
www.parkrun.org.uk/cambourne-juniors/
Cambourne Netball Club:
www.pitchero.com/clubs/
cambournenetballclub
Cambourne Raptors Basketball Club:
info@cambournebasketball.org
Cambourne Runners:
cambournerunnersarc@gmail.com
Cambourne Tennis Club:
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CambourneLTC
Cambourne Town Football Club:
hello@cambournetownfc.org.uk
For specific team email contact(s) see:
www.cambournetownfc.org.uk
Cambourne Women Runners:
information.cwr@gmail.com
Cambs Chargers Volleyball Club:
cambschargers@gmail.com
Cambs Tai Chi Club:
www.cambs-taichi.org.uk
Cambourne Tang Soo Do Club:
www.cambournekarate-tangsoodo.co.uk
Cambourne Tae Kwon Do:
stephenlacey73@gmail.com
Cambourne Karate School (AKS):
07929 100 612 www.karateschools.co.uk
Pilates
www.faybpilates.co.uk

Current as of January 2026. To add a listing
or update information email:
delivery@cambournecrier.org



Volunteer with the *Cambourne Crier* team

Cambourne Crier volunteers with friends and family, enjoying their annual meal at The Red House in Longstowe

***Cambourne Crier* is run entirely by volunteers and the team consists of people from all walks of life, with one thing in common, they are interested in Cambourne and want to contribute to the community.**

Once a year the team has its annual get-together, this year enjoying a meal at The Red House in Longstowe – a few miles south of Cambourne – at the end of January.

The roles of the volunteers vary, from the editorial staff who consider and edit the submissions sent in for publication, to the designers who lay out the pages and the proofreaders who check everything before we go to print.

Equally important are our distribution managers, who ensure boxes of magazines are delivered to each of the young people in our delivery team – who go out, whatever the weather, putting a copy through every letterbox in Lower, Great and Upper Cambourne each month. The team also delivers copies to local businesses and community outlets such as the council offices, medical practice and library.

We also maintain our website, www.cambournecrier.org – where you can find past issues as well as our submission guide and deadlines – and our Facebook page.

If you are looking for a worthwhile and interesting volunteering opportunity and have an interest in producing a monthly magazine, please do get in touch. If you have prior experience that's great, but not essential.

Please email us on editorial@cambournecrier.org to express your interest and we will get back to you with further information.

editorial@cambournecrier.org

Gambourne Balkan Dance Club

**BALKAN DANCE
FOR FUN AND FITNESS**

Every Sunday, enthusiasts meet up to practice traditional dances from Bulgaria and Greece.
The dance is open to all.

5:20pm (Beginners)
Easy and basic dances

6:30pm (Intermediate)
Complex and quick dances


**The Blue Space, Cambourne
CB23 6DZ**

Find us on Google or Facebook  **@Cam.Balkan.Dance**
Tel: 07551 203866

Check out the view from Fata Morganna Teahouse

In 2010 the University of Cambridge started to build a new community. The project was named Eddington, after Cambridge Astronomer Sir Arthur Eddington. There are some very interesting works of art to admire including a 2-storey tower created by the artists Wolfgang Winter and Berthold Horbelt. Fata Morganna Teahouse is made of steel mesh and you can climb the stairs and have a great views of the pond.





#rufhsstives2026

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Tennis season experiences some disruption...

CAMBOURNE TENNIS CLUB: The prolonged spell of poor winter weather has led to the cancellation of a large number of fixtures, causing significant disruption at the start of the season. As a result the Winter League has been extended to accommodate cancelled matches.

Despite this the club continues to compete in the Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles competitions in the Cambridgeshire League, with teams eager to make the most of the improved conditions as they return to the courts. Looking ahead, the Vets League is also about to begin, with the club proudly fielding two teams this season.

Players are hopeful for better weather and an exciting run of matches in the weeks ahead. We wish all our teams the very best of luck as the season continues. You can follow us on: cambslta.org.uk/league-tennis/cambs-winter-league/

Meanwhile, our weekly social mix-in sessions on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening remain well-attended by



some of our die-hard members. With the days getting longer again, we look forward to much better weather during Spring!

In January, we sadly lost our competition secretary Ben Jarvis, who has left Cambridgeshire for greener pastures. We are extremely grateful to him for all the hard work he has put into running the tournaments and club championships over the past years.

Coaching news: Spring Term Tennis Lessons for all ages and abilities are available. Sessions run from 12th January to 28th March (10 weeks) at just £57.50 for the term! Sign up via www.gamesettennis.co.uk or email toby@gamesettennis.co.uk. Please see the club website for more information on our activities and on how to join: clubspark.lta.org.uk/CambourneLTC

Fastbreak Basketball is back in Cambourne!

FASTBREAK BASKETBALL CLUB continues to expand in Cambourne, with a strong focus on developing youth basketball opportunities. For the 2025/26 season, the club prioritised the establishment of a strong U14 programme. Regular training sessions are now held supporting young players through structured coaching and competitive opportunities.

The club currently works with two U14 boys' teams, Cambourne Falcons and Cambridge Kestrels. Training and match preparation are delivered by a coaching team of five, headed by Head Coach Navid, with an emphasis on fundamental skills, teamwork and confidence-building.

The Kestrels U14 team has enjoyed a particularly successful season in the National League, winning eight of fourteen matches. This represents a new club record and reflects the steady development of the squad. The Falcons U14 team is also making encouraging progress, with consistent improvements seen across the season.

Fastbreak Basketball has also recently launched a new U14 girls' team, Cambourne Owls, in response to growing interest. New players are welcome and friendly matches for the team are planned, with updates to follow.

Fastbreak Basketball are inviting new players in mixed-gender sessions for U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups, as



well as opportunities for U14 girls, U16 and U18 players. All ability levels are welcome. The club's U14 boys' teams will accept new players from April.

The aim is to support long-term player development while encouraging physical activity and community involvement. Further information is available at www.fastbreakbasketball.co.uk. Enquiries can be directed to info@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk.



There's a place for you at Cambourne Cricket Club

CAMBOURNE CRICKET CLUB: As we begin to dust off our pads and scrub our whites, the club would like to take a moment to reflect on a remarkable 2025 season – one that laid the foundations for an even brighter year ahead.

Building on last year's progress

Across the senior sides, last season saw steady improvement and a deepening pool of talent – all of which was crucial as our first team secured promotion during an unstoppable march towards the East Anglian Premier League. Several younger players made their senior debuts, while gaining experience and delivering strong returns, over the course of the season. These performances have set the tone for 2026, with all teams aiming to push further up their respective leagues.

The lessons of last summer – resilience in tight matches, consistency across the squads, and a renewed sense of togetherness – now shape the ambitions for the season ahead.

Women's cricket: momentum turning into a movement

One of the most exciting stories from last year was the extraordinary rise of the women's section. Once a small, determined group has now grown into two full squads, training with purpose and competing with confidence.

This momentum is now the springboard for 2026. With more fixtures, players and visibility across the region, the women's programme is set to become one of Cambourne's defining strengths.

The club hopes to welcome even more new faces this year, from complete beginners to seasoned players returning to the game.

Junior cricket: a pathway ready to flourish again

The juniors enjoyed one of its most successful years to date, with high participation and a vibrant atmosphere across all age groups. The standout achievement was the number of young players who secured places in county squads – a testament to the dedication of coaches, volunteers, and families.

As the new season approaches, the junior pathway is poised to grow even stronger. More training opportunities, matches and development sessions will help nurture the next generation.

A club for the whole community

Beyond the boundary Cambourne Cricket Club continues to thrive as a community hub. Volunteers, supporters, families, and friends all played a vital role last year; and the club starts 2026 with renewed energy and a shared sense of purpose. We are working tirelessly to secure funding for infrastructure improvements including:

- A new fixed net facility local to the Great Cambourne Pavilion
- A dedicated scoreboard
- Additional changing rooms for women and girls.
- New fencing to create a more aesthetically appealing environment for our players and the public

Join us this season

With the new season fast approaching, the club welcomes anyone who would like to play cricket, learn the game, volunteer, or simply be part of a friendly and growing community. Those interested can find full details – including training times, membership information, and contact links – on the club's website and social media pages. Our AGM is also planned for the 7th February from 6pm at the Great Cambourne Pavillion – feel free to join us to hear more about how the club operates. Whether you're picking up a bat for the first time or returning after years away, there's a place for you at Cambourne Cricket Club.